SUBJECT: Federal Travel Regulation Changes

TO: Rural Development State Directors, Rural Development Managers, Community Development Managers and National Office Officials

PURPOSE/INTENDED OUTCOME:

This is to advise you that the General Services Administration (GSA) has issued revisions to the Federal Travel Regulations (FTR) on per diem rates for locations within the continental United States (CONUS). The new rates were published in the Federal Register on August 31, 2001, at page 46069. In this revision GSA:

- Increases/decreases the maximum lodging amounts in certain existing per diem localities.
- Adds new per diem localities and removes a number of previously designated localities.
- Integrates the contracting mechanism of the new Federal Premier Lodging Program (FPLP) into the per diem ratesetting process. The FPLP will enhance the Government's ability to better meet its overall room night demand and allow travelers to find lodging close to where they need to conduct business.

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES:

These changes apply to travel (including travel incident to a change of official station) performed on or after October 1, 2001. We suggest your office review the rate changes as quickly as possible. GSA will issue Amendment 97 in the near future.

(Signed by J. Michael Clark)

J. MICHAEL CLARK
Director
Support Services Division

EXPIRATION DATE: FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

September 30, 2002 Preceding RD Instruction 2036-A